have revealed that many of them have died after consuming pesticide treated seeds sown in agricultural fields.

The steps taken by the Government to prevent deaths of peafowls due to insecticides are as follows:

i. Awareness is generated amongst the farmers for using Bio-pesticides and non-poisonous chemicals in their fields.
ii. The farmers are advised to cover the seeds with soil immediately after sowing.
iii. The forest field staff have been instructed to maintain vigil in sensitive areas.
iv. The Animal Husbandary Departments have been advised to provide veterinary help to the sick birds.
v. Awareness is generated amongst villages to report such instances of poisoning cases to the Veterinary Officers so that timely treatment can be provided to the birds.

Gang cutting trees in Andaman Island

4610. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gangs from Myanmar, Indonesia and Sri Lanka are having a free run in India's Exclusive Economic Zone, looting seabed treasure like sea cucumber and cutting down trees of the Andaman Island;

(b) whether Diglipur and Mayarwende Island lost almost all the tree wealth;

(c) the reasons for which the marine police failed to catch them; and

(d) the action taken to save marine wealth by providing adequate number of patrol boats to marine police?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Vessels from Myanmar, Indonesia, Thailand and other neighboring Countries do visit the Andaman Islands and sometimes manage to take sea cucumber and other marine products. Occasional cutting of trees is also resorted to by them for meeting their camping requirement and for repairing/ construction of boats.

There are reports of felling of trees in Diglipur and Mayabunder Islands by old revenue settlers and encroachers. The Forest Department maintains regular establishments in each of these Islands and take adequate measures to protect forest and wildlife resources. Intensive patrolling is done by the staff to prevent illegal activities on these Islands.

(c) and (d) Protection of marine wealth in the Exclusive Economic Zone is the mandate of the Coast Guards. The Coast Guards, with the help of forest officials, do regular patrolling of the area and have seized 150 boats and arrested 1197 foreign nationals, since 1996.

Coast Guards are equipped with adequate number of seaworthy vessels and boats for the purpose of patrolling.

Air and Noise pollution in Delhi and other Metro-cities

4611. SHRI K.M. KHAN:
SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the current level of air and noise pollution in Delhi, as compared to that in other metro-cities of the country;

(b) whether, with implementations of the orders of Supreme Court, the harmful particles and air pollution level have actually come down, particularly in Delhi;

(c) if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what effective measures are being taken to bring the air pollution level under control?